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In This Issue

Editorial	2
Our Weird Farm Pricing System	3
Organic Gardening	7
The Family Farm	11
This Month with the QWI	16

Journal Jottings

Over the past few months I have
been planning next year's issues of
the Macdonald Journal and one
of the articles I wanted to include
as soon as possible was by
Prof. David L. MacFarlane, Chair-
man of the Economics Department.
I wanted his comments on one of
the most hotly discussed topics in
recent months — food prices,
their effect upon the economy, and
equally important, prices being
paid to farmers. We don't have
to wait for 1974 for this article;
Prof. MacFarlane was one step
ahead of me and had one ready for
the December issue.

His article is based, not only on
years of observation of the economy
of our nation, but on actual parti-

cipation in the nation's policy
making and always with the well
being of the Canadian farmer in
mind.

Producers and consumers alike
should find his views of interest.

I didn't ask Prof. MacFarlane for
his comments on pesticides, but
I've known Prof. Stuart Hill's
for some time. We wondered how
he personally put his thoughts into
practice and found the answer in
his own backyard — in his
vegetable garden. I only saw it
once, early in October, when I went
over to take some photos to
illustrate his article in this issue. It
looked to me, in one word,
bountiful. But that's my personal
view; I'd much rather you read
Prof. Hill's.

From Macdonald College, from
Quebec City, and from the 92
branches of the Quebec Women's
Institutes we have tried to bring
you some of the happenings of
1972, and, as I mentioned at the
beginning, we have already planned
some of our issues for next year.
Our thanks to our contributors and
to our readers for their continued
interest and with our thanks may
we extend our sincere good
wishes for a Happy Holiday Season
and the best of all possible New
Years.

Hazel M. Clarke.

Quebec has only five million acres of good, arable farmland remaining. During the past 10 years approximately 300,000 acres have been lost to urbanization and land speculation. It is estimated that at least another 300,000 acres of farmland is currently under speculation, awaiting conversion to another use.

These were a few of the most startling findings presented at a recent panel discussion on "Land Use Conflict in Quebec" sponsored by the Department of Renewable Resources Development at Macdonald.


These are statements that should be pondered upon by anyone who is at all concerned about agriculture, food production, and the future of Quebec and Canada. If we continue to convert good, arable farmland into other uses at the rate we have been doing during the past decade, we will have lost from one-quarter to one-third of our present farmland by the year 2000. In the meantime, Quebec's, Canada's, and the world's population will have increased tremendously. Where is the food to feed these people going to come from? How long can we continue to rely upon advances in agricultural technology to bail us out?

This particular situation is not peculiar only to Quebec. Ontario is also faced with the same dilemma of how to accommodate expanding urbanization upon its most productive agricultural land. It is estimated that Ontario has lost about 10 per cent of its farmland during the last 10 years. Unfortunately, the same condition exists also for many other parts of Canada and the United States.

What then is the solution? Can anything be done to stop or reverse this trend? One hates to be pessimistic but it looks doubtful whether any solution, or even improvement, is going to be quick or easy to accomplish. The Quebec government is attempting to deal with the land use problem by proposing that a planning body be created at the provincial level that could bear the power and responsibility for overall land and resource planning in the province. Perhaps the authority to deal with such an important and complex problem has to reside at the provincial level, even though there are many of us who are advocates of "grassroots democracy" and who believe such matter should be resolved by the local community. Any effective action on the provincial level is going to be at least five or six years in the future simply because of the lack of necessary resource data needed to make decisions at this level. In the meantime, the problem will get much worse as developers scramble to reap their profits before new legislation removes the opportunity.

In any event, one general consensus coming out of the conference was that there needs to be a major change in peoples' social values concerning what represents a good standard of living before much can be done about the problem. Already, in just the past decade we seemed to have moved in this direction in realizing that our quality of living cannot be measured alone by material wealth. But dealing effectively with the problem of the urbanization of our productive farmland may require that we make drastic changes in our values regarding private ownership and government control. This is the part of the solution that will be difficult and slow to achieve. The idea of private ownership and control of land is too deeply engrained into our value system to expect any rapid change. But then again, perhaps we are just expecting too much change too fast. Perhaps the situation just hasn't gotten bad enough. Perhaps we just haven't gotten hungry enough.

Gordon Bachman

A black and white photograph showing a perspective view of railroad tracks receding into the distance. On the left side of the tracks, there is a large, multi-story grain elevator with several horizontal bands. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds. The overall tone is somber and industrial.

Our Weird Farm Pricing System

The weird gyrations of agricultural commodity prices in mid-1973, particularly in futures markets, have done irreparable damage to the Canadian economy. In a longer term period, three to ten years, the farm industry will be paying for this speculative splurge in commodity markets. The increases in the retail prices of food are very destructive to the whole economy. Because of the importance of the Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.) in wage negotiations, the sharp increases in the cost of food threaten to put the whole wage and

industrial cost structure on a much higher plane. This, in short, would make Canada less competitive in export markets, where about half of the goods produced in Canada are sold. The influential Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development states that the 1973 increases in commodity prices have been "the greatest single component in the industrial world's inflation".

It was this which led me to recommend to the Chairman of the Food Prices Review Board that the Government should freeze the price

of bread at June 1 or July 1 levels, or to permit increases to compensate only for labour, packaging and other non-wheat ingredients. This could be done (and in part is being done) by federal treasury payments to the Canadian Wheat Board. Since this is a monopoly agency, there is no difficulty in administering this program. I was very much afraid that with a five to ten cent price increase on a loaf of bread, recognizing its heavy weighting in the C.P.I., it would be almost impossible to hold to any moderate wage demands.



Below left: The floor of the Chicago Board of Trade, the world's oldest and largest commodities exchange, in its normal hubbub. Right: Increases in the retail prices of food are very destructive to the whole economy.



A pricing system is supposed to channel goods from producers to consumers, to allocate resources to various lines of production, and to provide rewards or returns to the factors used in production. To be acceptable the system must perform fairly well in meeting each of the criteria. Supplies of any product moving to markets (and thus the amounts of resources employed in producing them) should be in general conformity with demand in both domestic and export markets. In 1973 the price system functioned very badly by this standard.

Many economists praise agricultural pricing as the last bastion of "competitive economics". But let us ask what they are praising? Throughout the 1960s the labour and capital resources even on efficiently organized farm units were woefully under-paid. During that decade there was an average of some 20 billion dollars of resources invested in this industry. There were also some 500,000 non-wage family farm workers. And yet the net income to both these factors over the decade averaged no more than 1,500 million dollars. This works out at about 7.5 per cent return on investment, with zero return to labour and management. Or if you want to put it the other way it works out at about \$3,000 for a year's labour and zero return on capital. These are the results which were yielded by a largely competitive pricing mechanism. Granted that there is a wide spectrum of differences in the size of farms and in the efficiency of their operation. But during that decade most skilled operators with an investment of \$70,000 to \$100,000

were not making anything approaching 10 per cent on their investment plus \$5,000 for labour and management. These are reasonable pay-out or pay-off norms for a competitive economy.

It was the failure of the pricing system to pay-out at the above reasonable levels that led the British in the 1950s to supplement income earned in the free market with deficiency payments. The biggest trouble with these is that the payments were arbitrarily determined by government, and thus led to a great deal of squabbling between various producer commodity groups and government. But in retrospect this system looks pretty good, particularly because it kept food prices in Britain at the lowest level in the world. I say retrospect since the above system is rapidly disappearing as Britain moves into the European Economic Community. This means the adoption of explicit policies for high cost food.

In Canada we responded to the low pay-out problem by founding the Canadian Wheat Board, the Canadian Dairy Commission, and in addition by a comprehensive price support program, plus some 120 provincially organized producer marketing boards. But the efforts involved in these programs do not appear to have had a very significant impact in raising financial returns to farmers.

Again we were able to see the operation of the so-called free market or free market plus govern-

mentally influenced market in the events of 1973. In the speculative frenzy we saw wheat go from less than \$2.30 per bushel to about \$5.60 per bushel. Feed barley increased from about \$1.40 per bushel to more than \$2.50 per bushel. Soybeans increased from about \$2.10 per bushel to over \$11.00 per bushel. Cocoa increased from a little over 30 cents to about 87 cents per pound. Hogs rose from around \$40.00 per hundred pounds to over \$70.00. Beef from \$38.00 to \$62.00 per hundredweight.

For food grains and soybeans the price increases were associated with a substantial expansion of demand particularly from the U.S.S.R. and Mainland China. For feed grains, soybeans, and livestock it was related to a rapid expansion of demand for meat in all the developed countries. It was also related to transferring large amounts of investment capital out of the stock market (which was not behaving very well) into the commodity markets; and to two successive devaluations of the American dollar. These made U.S. products relatively cheap to Europeans and to the Japanese.

But the prices quoted above suggest a speculative frenzy much more than any or all of the basic economic factors listed. For instance, in one week, 100,000 tons of cocoa were traded on the London cocoa market, but during the same week only 400 tons of actual cocoa was purchased in Ghana, the world's largest

producer. The situation is different only in degree for other commodities traded on futures markets — as all important agricultural commodities are.

We conclude from the experience of the decade of the 1960s, and from that of 1973 that the functioning of the market has been exceedingly bad. It would appear that almost any alternative system would give a more satisfactory performance. The only alternatives are more governmental pricing or making the so-called free market system work better. American and European experience proves that pricing by public authority is seldom well managed. Thus most economists want to maintain a free market pricing system, including futures trading in farm commodities, but without the excessive speculation of 1973. A more stringent regulation of futures markets is clearly called for.

Look to the Future

The London Economist announced on September 8 last that "the commodity boom is over". But only after doing severe damage to the Canadian economy — including agriculture. Some sectors of agriculture were (and are) short run beneficiaries from the ridiculous levels of many farm commodity prices. The whole cost structure in agriculture: land, machinery, fertilizer, tractor fuel, will remain on an elevated level for a long time; on a level at which many farmers will find it difficult to cope — when their prices have receded.

Where are farm prices going?
Recognizing the hazards of dis-

cussing this question, a lifetime in research on and observation of agricultural markets convinces the writer that we shall move to a new plateau of prices lower than the present (October 1973) and clearly higher than those prevailing in the 10 years before 1973. Taking the first three years of this decade (1970-1972) as representative of the old plateau, we find the following price ranges generally representative: Wheat (Lakehead): \$1.80-\$2.40 per bushel. Corn (Chicago): \$1.15-\$1.60 per bushel. Industrial milk (Montreal): \$5.00-\$5.50 per hundred. Beef (Toronto): \$30.00-\$40.00. Eggs (Montreal): 30 to 40 cents per dozen. Apples (Quebec farm): \$1.50-\$1.75 per bushel. By "generally representative" is meant that average price quotations for most months fell within the indicated ranges.

There has been a basic change in recent years in the demand for farm products — an increase in demand. This is associated largely with the growing affluence of Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and Japan. This resulted in a fairly rapid shift to meats. And with fairly large scale purchases of food and feed grains by the U.S.S.R. and Mainland China. North American farmers, fearing the return to surpluses, have been slower in responding than the market signals called for. Granted U.S. agriculture increased its acreage of small grains, corn, and soybeans by some 25 million acres in 1973, and Canada by four million, but the U.S. still has 30 to 40 million acres in the Soil Bank. It may be entirely released for production in 1974 — one can always hope. And Canadian farmers may expand

small grain production by three to five million acres — they could. But we have to wait for the 1974 North American crops before we shall see further significant declines from the inordinately high 1973 prices. Rather we shall have to wait until May-July 1974 when the futures market will throw up signals on the size of that crop.

If we get considerably larger plantings in 1974 and normal yields, this should bring an end to the short supply situation. And there is no need to have a return to it in the 1970s. The productivity of North American agriculture is simply prodigious.

And so the prospect is for a new plateau of prices for the latter half of the decade. Rather than spelling these out commodity by commodity (a very dangerous pursuit) let me suggest that for the latter half of the 1970s farm prices will generally be 20 to 30 per cent higher than the ranges quoted above for the period prior to 1973.

What is most important is that in the emerging Canadian economy both farmers and consumers could live with such a price structure. Under such conditions perhaps one-half or more of our seriously commercial farms (\$20,000 or more in annual sales) could realize my favourite targets: 10 per cent on their investment and a minimum of \$5,000 (of 1970-72 purchasing power) as a labour and management return. It's not a lot, but it is a lot better than farm incomes in the dirty '60s.

David L. MacFarlane,
Economics Department.

ORGANIC GARDENING

"You're not one of those organic nuts are you — you know, the sort of idiot who believes that organically produced food is superior, and that we shouldn't use fertilizers and pesticides?"

"If by 'superior' you mean generally better for mankind and by fertilizers and pesticides you mean those which have been synthesized by man — well yes, I guess I am an organic nut, but I think I can defend these views."

This article is by way of a reply to the "non-organic nuts" who frequently ask the above sort of question. My qualifications for attempting this are firstly that I have kept a successful garden for a number of years without using "fertilizers" and "pesticides", and secondly that my training is as an ecologist, i.e. a scientist concerned with the factors that determine how and why different animals and plants, including crops and their pests, survive and multiply in particular environments. At the present time my major interests are with soil animals, their influence on soil fertility and man's influence on them, and with insect pests, the causes of outbreaks and methods of controls. I should point out that I have no experience as an organic farmer and am not attempting to present a case for organic farming. Rather I will try to explain why I have chosen to garden organically. Some of the reasons are selfish, some relate to the needs of my family and some to the needs of mankind. They include a desire to save money, to be able to eat fresh, tasty vegetables when we want to, to provide an interesting pastime that the whole family can

participate in and to enable me to commune with nature. In addition to satisfying the above criteria I want to be sure that my gardening activities will not degrade the environment. Let's deal with these criteria in turn.

To save money and provide us with fresh, tasty vegetables

On an area of garden, 50 ft. x 50 ft., I am able to grow enough to provide our family of four with vegetables for about half a year — and we give away quite a lot to friends. This probably saves us between \$200 and \$300 per year. With no fertilizer or pesticide to buy, our only annual costs are for seeds and plants (\$10 to \$20).

I plant early, mid-season, and late varieties of as many crops as I can, and we harvest and eat them daily when they are ready and in peak condition. The excess is stored. Most of the vegetables are eaten raw so that we derive the maximum food value from them.

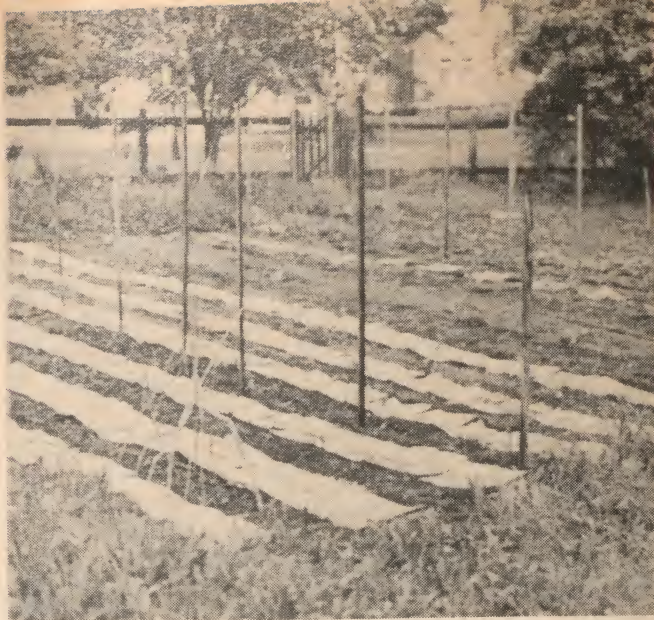
As a pastime and an opportunity to commune with nature

With regard to exercise, there is a period of fairly intensive activity in spring when the ground must be prepared and planted, but after that little physical labour is required until autumn. I keep an eye on the crops almost daily by walking through the garden on my way to and from work, and we may do some cabbage worm picking or slug catching if this seems necessary. I only water four or five times during the season and weed two or three times. The other period of fairly intensive activity is in

autumn when the compost heap must be made and the remaining crops harvested and stored. Planning the garden for the following year is an enjoyable but quite demanding exercise. Decisions as to which varieties to plant and where and when to plant them are much more critical when not using pesticides. I find that the books and magazines on organic gardening are packed with interesting ideas which may be tried out. For example, a few years ago I read a letter from an old lady who got rid of her newspapers by laying them between the rows of plants as a paper mulch. I had been saving my old newspapers thinking that the Boy Scouts or some other socially responsible group might like to collect them for recycling, but I could not interest anybody in them. So I did as the old lady had done. I found that as the newspapers prevented evaporation from the soil surface I hardly had to water the plants. They also kept the soil warm and prevented both the weeds from growing and the soil from eroding. I was able to walk between the rows without getting covered in mud and without compressing the soil, and, if I needed giant earthworms for fishing, I only had to lift up one of the newspapers and there they were actively cultivating the soil for me. I can also feed them to my goldfish without fear of them being contaminated with pesticides, or watch the birds feed on them without worrying that they may be poisoned.

The opportunity to commune with nature is one of the main reasons why I keep an organic

Top: Preparing the vegetable garden starts early in May. Newspapers divide the rows and serve as a mulch. Centre: The garden looked plentiful even in October, and the newspapers were still in place. Bottom: Prof. Hill picking butternut squash — note the healthy looking leaves.



garden. I just love getting my hands into the soil, caring for it and watching it become more fertile and productive. I enjoy carrying out little experiments and following the growth of plants through the growing season. I even enjoy watching the pests turn up and then watching their predators and parasites keeping them in check. I marvel every year at the conversion of leaves and vegetable wastes in my compost heap into sweet-smelling, fertile humus. It has become very important to me to be close to nature.

What I have said up to now represents my subjective, yet real and honest, reasons for gardening organically. However, I have deeper, more fundamental, reasons that relate to the laws of nature and the future survival of man in a high quality environment.

In the following table I have tried to compare the activities involved in producing firstly organic vegetables and secondly those you are likely to be offered in supermarkets.

I am not saying that we **cannot** produce as nutritious food using fertilizers and pesticides but rather that we **are not** producing as nutritious food largely due to the things that are done to the food between harvesting it and eating it. My argument against the use of fertilizers and pesticides is not based on nutrition, as insufficient research has been carried out to demonstrate that either is clearly superior, although I must admit that working from basic principles I would predict that organic foods will eventually be shown to be superior, weight for weight.



PRODUCING AND CONSUMING ORGANIC VEGETABLES

PRODUCING AND CONSUMING SUPERMARKET VEGETABLES

Selection of the Plant

Selected for:

tastiness and nutritious value
resistance to pests
suitability for local conditions

weight of crop
shelf life
superficial appearance
(i.e. usually not for nutritious value)

Selection of Site

planted only in sites in which the various needs of the crop are likely to be met (e.g. fertile soil, adequate light, etc.)

area planted is dictated primarily by projected demand and profit margin for crop, i.e. may be grown in unsuitable conditions and consequently be more susceptible to pests.

Planting Design

small plots; mixed crops; complex layout using companion plants and avoiding antagonistic plants; rotation; timed to avoid pests.

large uniform plots; monoculture; planted as early as possible altogether; (facilitates distribution of pests).

Maintenance of Site

Cultivation, aeration and drainage: encourage earthworms and rely on them (i.e. minimal disturbance of crop)

: by fossil fuel requiring machines (often damages plants creating sites for pest entry) and putting in tile drains.

Provision of moisture: by using a mulch to prevent evaporation from the soil surface (also reduces erosion, stabilizes soil temperature, prevents compaction)

: by irrigation (distributes pathogens and causes erosion)

Fertilization: by recycling organic wastes back to the soil usually via a compost heap (helps solve our waste disposal problem)

: by adding man-synthesized fertilizers e.g. NPK (plants often become succulent and more attractive to pests)

Control of weeds: by using a mulch

: by herbicides

Control of animal pests: by biological controls and preventative measures

: by man-synthesized organic pesticides (pests become resistant, predators and parasites are killed).

Harvesting and Storage

harvest throughout year when produce is ripe or ready; stored so as to preserve maximum nutritional value

harvested altogether.

stored altogether in most convenient, inexpensive way; stored product pests controlled with pesticides

Eating

usually eaten raw, fresh out of the garden, often with the outer leaves and pod, etc. i.e. using everything that is produced

packaged; with outer leaves or pod removed; usually several days to several months old when eaten; usually cooked; often processed or canned, with some of the following added: preservatives, colours, flavours, antioxidants, emulsifiers, extenders, modifiers, bleaches, acidifiers, clarifiers, etc.

Underlying Objectives

Produce only what is needed
Produce within a complex environment

Produce only what can be sold
Produce within a simple environment e.g. a monoculture

Produce with the minimal
a) consumption of energy and raw materials
b) environmental disturbance

Balance use of energy and raw materials, and environmental disruption against profits

Permit the cycling of materials by returning organic wastes to the land

Return waste to the land if economic

Use the "laws of nature and ecology" to our advantage

Improve on the laws of nature (a pious hope!)

My case against fertilizers

I object to fertilizers for four main reasons:

1. We are using up our fast disappearing fossil fuel reserves to make fertilizers. For example, it takes the amount of energy released from five tons of coal to make one ton of nitrogen fertilizer. We have to establish priorities for the use of fossil fuels and I just do not regard fertilizers as a priority item, especially if it is to be used in the back garden.

2. Usually more fertilizer is applied to the soil that it is able to hold. Some of the excess fertilizer is carried, through run-off, into our waterways where eutrophication can result, and some may get into our drinking water and cause methemoglobinemia in babies.

3. Adding materials such as inorganic nitrogen fertilizers to soil tends to increase the rate of breakdown of organic matter. As the soil is partly held together by this organic matter, a reduction in the amount present may lead to collapse of the soil and to an increased rate of erosion.

4. In natural systems plant nutrients are derived from the recycling and breakdown of organic matter. By adding inorganic fertilizers it makes it appear no longer necessary to return organic waste to productive land. Instead we get rid of most of this waste by dumping it on non-productive land, or in the river (causing water pollution) or by burning it (causing air pollution). In contrast to this we should try to fertilize the soil in such a way that we:

- use the minimal amount of fossil fuel energy;
- return our organic wastes to productive land;
- do not contribute to pollution;
- release nutrients to plants as they are needed;
- enable the soil to maintain a stable structure.

These criteria can only be satisfied by returning our organic wastes to productive land. For the home gardener this can be done by digging raw organic wastes into the soil or by adding them after composting.

My case against pesticides

I object to pesticides for four main reasons:

1. Pests are not biological entities. This means that there is nothing about a pest that will make it more likely to be killed or damaged by a poison than a beneficial organism (including ourselves and our children). Thus whatever poisons we use to kill pests will always kill or damage some other organisms. As it happens this situation is made worse by the fact that most pests feed on plants and are less sensitive to pesticides than most of their predators. Thus we often find that when pesticides are applied the natural predators of the pests, which may have previously played a vital role in keeping the pests in check, are killed. The predators may have also been keeping other minor pests in check which in their absence are able to become major pests.

2. All pests are likely to eventually become resistant to pesticides because by applying them regularly we are continually selecting for the individuals that are least affected.

3. We have very little control over the fate of the pesticides we apply. In fact a maximum of 40 per cent reaches the target, 60 per cent to 99 per cent being dispersed into the rest of the environment, some poisoning beneficial plants and animals, some getting into our waterways, some into our drinking water

and food and some getting on the person applying them. Thus the argument that the real problem is misuse is a poor one for even with correct use we still have little control over the distribution of pesticides.

4. Most pesticides are organic compounds that man has synthesized and that have no counterpart in nature. If they were like naturally occurring materials it is likely that many micro-organisms would have evolved that could break them down. But this is not the case. This is why many of them are so persistent and accumulate in the environment. In fact by producing and releasing them we are bound to gradually increase the amount of these poisons in the environment. I think that we have got into this mess of depending on fertilizers and pesticides by relying too heavily on the idea that there is a simple solution for everything, e.g. fertilizers for fertility, pesticides for pests. In reality lack of fertility and the presence of pests are complex phenomena which in most cases require complex remedies. Only by modifying our methods of managing "agricultural" systems will we satisfactorily solve these problems and ensure our survival in a high quality environment. While it is difficult to bring about rapid changes in agricultural management there is nothing to stop us managing our gardens with nature and not against it.

Prof. Stuart B. Hill,
Department of Entomology.

GENERAL BOOKS ON ORGANIC GARDENING

HARRISON, J. B. 1972. *Good Food Naturally*. J. J. Douglas, Vancouver.

HECKEL, A. (Ed.) 1967. *The Pfeiffer Garden Book — Bio-Dynamics in the Home Garden*. Bio-Dynamic Farming & Gardening Assoc. Penna.

HILLS, L. D. 1971. *Grow Your Own Fruit and Vegetables*. Faber & Faber, London.

RODALE, R. (Ed.) 1971. *The Basic Book of Organic Gardening*. Ballantine Books, N.Y., \$1.25 (and many other books by him — see below for where to write for list).

Companion Plants

PHILBRICK, H. & Gregg, R. B. 1966. *Companion Plants and How to Use Them*. Devin-Adair Co., N.Y.
Pest Controls Without Poisons

HUNTER, B. T. 1971. *Gardening Without Poisons*. Barrdawn Sales, Scarborough, approx. \$1.50.

RODALE, J. I. (Ed.) 1966. *The Organic Way to Plant Protection*. Rodale Press, Emmaus, Penna., approx. \$7.00.

Societies and Magazines

U.S.A.: Bio-Dynamic Farming & Gardening Assoc. Inc., R.D. 1, Stroudsburg, Pa. 18360 (Josephine Porter) Natural Food & Farming Associates, P.O. Box 210, Atlanta, Texas 75551, \$5.00, (Dr. Joe D. Nichols) Organic Gardening & Farming, Rodale Press Inc., 33 East Minor St., Emmaus, Penna., 18049, \$5.85, (Robert Rodale)

Canada: Land Fellowship Smithville, Ontario, \$5.00, (Spencer Cheshire)

The Family

Farm

Published in the interests
of the farmers of the province
by the Quebec Department of
Agriculture

Aid for Manufacturing Milk Producers to Convert to Bulk Shipment

In 1975 industrial milk processing plants will no longer accept milk shipped in cans. This is because of the increased transportation costs and small volume and very variable quality of the milk produced by those concerned.

In order to help cope with this urgent situation, the Quebec Department of Agriculture offers the affected dairy farmers financial assistance for the period October 1, 1973 to October 1, 1975.

To qualify for this aid, a milk producer must:

1. have been a manufacturing milk producer shipping his milk in cans on October 1, 1973;
2. have an adequate milk-house or dairy;
3. buy a new bulk milk tank.

If he meets these conditions, a producer will be entitled to the following financial assistance:

A) If he obtains a loan:

The loan must be obtained in accordance with the regulations of the Farm Improvement Act and must not exceed \$4,000.

1) Interest rebate

The Quebec Farm Credit Bureau will pay the 3 per cent interest provided for in the Farm Improvement Act and, in addition, the Department will pay directly to the producer any interest then remaining in excess of 2½ per cent per annum for a period of five years. (This means that the producer pays interest on his loan at the rate of only 2½ per cent during those five years.)

2) Remission of the capital amount of the loan

a) One year after the date of the loan, the Quebec Department of Agriculture will pay the producer a grant equal to 25 per cent of the capital amount due for repayment in each year.

b) Two years after the date of the loan, the Quebec Department of Agriculture will pay the borrowers a second grant which will also be a percentage of the capital amount repayable in each year. This percentage, which will be applied to the reduction of the capital amount of the loan, will be equal to the total percentage by which the producer's milk production has increased during the said two years (as compared with the production in the year before the bulk tank was acquired).

c) For ease of calculation, the capital repayments must all be equal and calculated as if the duration of the loan were exactly five years.

B) If the dairy farmer does not obtain a loan

The Quebec Department of Agriculture will pay the producer a grant equal to the interest rebate and the remission of the capital amount of the debt as provided for in 1) and 2)a.

Aid for Cattle Breeders' Associations

PURPOSE: This program is de-

signed to encourage the formation of breeders' associations. Such associations must strive to make their respective breeds of cattle better known to farmers and to spread knowledge of modern herd management techniques among their members.

I — Aid for purebred cattle breeders' associations

The Quebec Department of Agriculture is pleased to grant purebred dairy cattle breeders' associations financial aid to help them better fulfil their role since these associations are non-profit organizations and hence cannot unaided obtain the funds they need to operate and to provide their members with the services they should have.

REQUIREMENTS: To qualify for the grant, an association must:

a) submit a report of its activities showing, amongst other things, the number of regular members and the number of breeders carrying out official milk testing, together with documentary confirmation of these two items from the parent breed association and the ROP authorities;

b) submit an official report of its financial operations;

c) have its fieldman actively support the Department's programs concerning the herds, namely as regards insemination, the testing of young bulls, and milk testing.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. Any breeders' association with at least 100 regular members which employs a full-time secretary-

Breeders of purebred cattle and their breed associations do vital work. Here is a consignment of Sussex, Jersey and Friesian cattle on their way from Britain to Zambia to join pedigree studs there and help improve the national herds.

fieldman will receive a grant of \$10,000 a year.

2. Any association with at least 500 regular members which employs two persons, namely a full-time secretary-fieldman and a fieldman, will receive an additional grant of \$8,000 a year.

3. Any association with more than 1,000 regular members which employs a secretary-fieldman, a full-time fieldman, and an assistant fieldman will receive a further grant of \$5,000 a year in addition to the two already mentioned.

4. In addition, every cattle breeders' association is allowed a subsidy of \$10 a year per member who carries out official milk testing which is acceptable for bull testing.

A regular member means any breeder of purebred cattle who has paid his annual membership fee to the parent breed-association.

An operating year or year of activities shall coincide with the calendar year.

II—Aid for the Quebec Beef Cattle Breeders' Society

The Quebec Department of Agriculture is pleased to grant the Quebec Beef Cattle Breeders' Society financial aid to help it fulfil its role better.

REQUIREMENTS: To qualify for the grant, the Society must:

1. submit a report of activities stating its aims and the number of its members;
2. encourage beef cattle raising in general;



3. organize regional auction sales of purebred beef cattle;

4. provide for the needs of an active secretarial staff who will distribute literature about the breeds concerned;

5. submit an official financial report of its operations.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The association will be granted the sum of \$8,000 for pursuing the aims specified in its program of activities.

III—Aid for purebred beef cattle breeders' associations of Quebec

The Quebec Department of Agriculture is pleased to grant Quebec purebred beef cattle breeders' associations financial assistance to help them fulfil their role better.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. Any such association of breeders having at least 75 regular members will receive a grant of \$2,000.

2. Any such association having at least 300 regular members will receive a grant of \$4,000.

The chief purpose of the grants is to enable the associations concerned to supply Quebec cattlemen with literature in their respective languages.

A regular member means any breeder of beef cattle who has paid his annual membership fee to the parent breed association.

An operating year or year of

activities shall coincide with the calendar year.

Systematic Stocktaking of Quebec's Agricultural Economy Published For The First Time

The Economic Studies section of the Quebec Department of Agriculture has just published a systematic stocktaking of Quebec's agricultural economy in 1972. This document, now ready for distribution, constitutes the first systematic study of the economic situation of agriculture in the province. It quantifies and analyzes the main variables of Quebec's agricultural economy with a view to short, medium and long term forecasts.

This 76-page study first briefly places Quebec agriculture in its international, national and provincial context. In the second, more detailed part, it deals with farm income and production, prices, productivity and labour.

Anyone interested in obtaining this brochure entitled 'Bilan de l'économie agricole du Québec en 1972' may do so by applying to the Information Division of the Department of Agriculture, 200-A, chemin Ste-Foy, Quebec, G1A 1E4.

Summary of The First Stocktaking Of Quebec's Agricultural Economy

In 1972 the world agricultural situation was good and, on the whole, farm incomes improved. Prices for most farm products increased by about 10 per cent as the result of an imbalance between supply and demand.

In Canada cash returns from sales

of farm products reached the record level of \$5.3 billion.

In Quebec on the other hand, the situation was less favourable for agriculture owing, specifically, to adverse summer weather.

These general conclusions are derived from a stocktaking of Quebec's agricultural economy in 1972 recently published by the economic studies section of the Quebec Department of Agriculture.

FARM INCOME

Gross returns: Gross returns for the year were valued at \$841,750,000, or 11.8 per cent more than for 1971. This sum represents about 3.3 per cent of Quebec's gross internal product for 1972. The biggest increase was in the field of livestock productions, namely 12.5 per cent over 1971. However, the output of these productions only rose by 3.9 per cent. This was due partly to bad weather which affected numerous crops and reduced supplies of feed grains and also to a distinct improvement in livestock prices.

Operating costs: Operating costs increased by 6.6 per cent, a reasonable proportion in view of the increased cost of living and of livestock feed.

Total net income: Total net farm income was 19.8 per cent higher than for 1971, owing to a number of factors: a 12.1 per cent increase in prices paid to farmers for agricultural products; a smaller increase (4 per cent) in the cost of inputs, and an estimated 10.2 per cent increase in labour productivity.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN QUEBEC

Livestock productions: Livestock productions comprise dairy and poultry products and animals.

Dairy production in 1972 showed an increase of 11.5 per cent over that of 1971.

The number of hogs slaughtered declined considerably. Cattle, sheep and lambs fell short of the demand so that it was necessary to continue importing them.

Poultry meat production has remained stable, but egg production fell by 12.3 per cent, presumably owing to low market prices during the past two years.

Plant productions: Vegetable production in 1972 was less than that of 1971 by 22 per cent, while apple production was lower by 4.3 per cent and strawberry production by 3.7 per cent; on the other hand, that of blueberries rose by 50 cent. Yields of field crops were also lower. Woodlot and maple syrup production have continued to rise.

PRICES TO CONSUMERS

For Canada as a whole, prices in general to consumers in 1972 showed an overall increase of 4.8 per cent over those of 1971. The food sector showed the biggest increase, namely 7.6 per cent for the whole of Canada, as compared with only 6.9 per cent for Quebec (6.8 per cent for Montreal and 6.3 per cent for Quebec City). It should, however, be noted that incomes rose at a distinctly higher rate than the cost of living.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this stocktaking points to an equally favourable world economic situation in 1973. Demand for farm products should remain stable with, as a result, increased production and higher gross returns.

In Quebec, livestock productions integrated with crop productions must be developed to cope with the strong increase in livestock feed prices.

The Order of Agricultural Merit

1. The Order of Agricultural Merit of the Province of Quebec is instituted for the purpose of encouraging agriculturalists by honours and rewards, and to acknowledge services rendered to agriculture. (R.S.Q. 1941, ch. 116, as amended by 14 Geo. VI, ch. 7, and by 9-10 Elizabeth II, ch. 57).
2. An agricultural merit competition is organized each year in one of five regions of the Province designed for the purposes of the Agricultural Merit competition, thus: 1963, fourth region; 1964, fifth; 1965, back to the first again; and so on.
3. The judges of the competition are appointed by the Minister of Agriculture from among commanders and officers of agricultural merit, professors of agricultural schools and the agronomists of the Province.

Entrance conditions for the Competition

1. Any farmer may take part in the Agricultural Merit Competition

provided that, during not less than the past five consecutive years, he has operated a farm of at least 60 acres under cultivation, as owner, usufructuary, tenant farmer, or lessee.

2. Every competitor must enter for the competition before June 15, using the form supplied by the Department of Agriculture. The entry must be accompanied by a declaration by the county agricultural representative stating that the competitor's farm is operated in accordance with sufficiently high standards to give it a progressive character in every respect and that the competitor fulfils the required conditions.

Regions

For the purposes of the Agricultural Merit competition, the Province is divided into five regions, each composed of a number of electoral districts, as follows: —

Region 1: Argenteuil, Beauharnois, Chambly, Châteauguay, Deux-Montagnes, Fabre, Huntingdon, Jacques-Cartier, Laprairie, l'Assomption, Laval, Napierville, Robert Baldwin, Soulanges, St-Jean, Terrebonne, Vaudreuil and Verchères.

Region 2: Arthabaska, Bagot, Brôme, Compton, Drummond, Iberville, Missisquoi, Nicolet, Richelieu, Richmond, Rouville, Shefford, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, St Hyacinthe, Wolfe and Yamaska.

Region 3: Beauce, Bellechasse, Dorchester, Frontenac, Kamouraska, Lévis, l'Islet, Lotbinière, Mégantic,

Montmagny, Rivière-du-Loup, and Témiscouata.

Region 4: Berthier, Champlain, Chauveau, Gatineau, Hull, Joliette, Labelle, Laviolette, Maskinongé, Montcalm, Montmorency, Papineau, Pontiac, Portneuf, St-Maurice, and Trois-Rivières.

Region 5: Abitibi-Est, Abitibi-Ouest, Bonaventure, Charlevoix, Chicoutimi, Dubuc, Duplessis, Gaspé-Nord, Gaspé-Sud, Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Jonquière-Kénogami, Lac St-Jean, Matane, Matapédia, Rimouski, Roberval, Rouyn-Noranda, Saguenay and Témiscamingue.

Scoring System

In allotting points, judges will use the following score-card:

I. Farm as a whole 200 points

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. General management | 100 |
| 2. General appearance of the farm | 50 |
| 3. Useful and pleasant improvements | 50 |

II Lands and Crops 275 points

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 4. Tillage of the soil and care of crops | 50 |
| 5. Manuring, fertilizing and liming | 50 |
| 6. Allocation of land and crop rotation | 25 |
| 7. Yields of field crops | 100 |
| 8. Saleable crops and products | 50 |

III. Livestock and equipment 275 points

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 9. Livestock: animals and poultry | 100 |
| 10. Feeding and management and production | 100 |

- | | |
|--|----|
| 11. Machinery and agricultural equipment | 50 |
| 12. Repair shop and tools | 25 |

IV. Farm Buildings 150 points

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 13. Housing of livestock | 50 |
| 14. Storage of crops and feed | 25 |
| 15. Miscellaneous structures | 25 |
| 16. Farmhouse | 50 |

V. Miscellaneous items 100 points

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 17. Conveniences and comfort | 35 |
| 18. Useful and ornamental gardens | 20 |
| 19. Domestic arts and crafts | 20 |
| 20. Bookkeeping and farm records | 25 |

TOTAL _____
1,000 points

Competition Classes and Awards

1. Competitors are divided into two categories. The first consists of those competing for the decoration of Commander, and the second consists of aspirants for the decorations of Officer and Knight and for the diploma of Merit.

2. A competitor may not be awarded the decoration of Commander without first having won the decoration of Officer of the Order of Agricultural Merit.

3. Officers of the Order of Agricultural Merit who take part in the competition are divided into two classes. The first consists of those who earn their living by farming, and the second consists of those who are not farmers by profession.

4. The competitor placing first in the professional farmers' class of the first category with a score

of at least 900 is awarded the gold medal, title of Commander, diploma of Exceptionally Distinguished Merit, and a prize of \$1,000. The next two competitors — provided they score at least 900 points — receive prizes of \$600 and \$400. The leading competitor in the class for amateur farmers is also awarded a gold medal, the title of Commander and a diploma of Specially Distinguished Merit.

5. Competitors scoring at least 850 points out of 1,000 receive a silver medal, the title of Officer, and a diploma of Very Great Merit. Prizes of \$600, \$500, \$400, \$300 and \$200 are awarded to the first five of them.

6. Competitors scoring at least 750 points out of 1,000 receive a bronze medal, the title of Knight, and the diploma of Great Merit.

7. Competitors scoring at least 650 points out of 1,000 receive the diploma of Merit.

These regulations supersede the previous ones and will remain in force until further notice.



Christmas Message

Dear Friends: It is a rainy day in October and I must think about Christmas and my message to you. The trees are a sight to behold, glorious shades of red, yellow, gold, and green, and Christmas seems a long time away.

How I would love to visit each of you in your own homes, sit and chat a bit and really get to know you a little better, shake hands and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Wishful thinking, indeed, so, please, as you read this message, know it is written to each and every one of you right from my heart. May this

Christmas season bring you deep joy and many pleasant experiences, may the New Year bring you that Peace that "passeth the understanding of men", and may it bring nothing into your life to cause anxiety or worry. May all your days be full of sunshine. May you be able to see stars shining through any clouds that may appear on your horizon. May you have wisdom for all your problems and help in every time of need. And may you have true friends all along the way to the very end of life's journey. This is my wish for you and yours this Christmas season.

Edyth R. Westover,
Q.W.I. Provincial President.

Christmas Greetings 1973

What do we give? What do we get? This is the way it goes, and yet What most people want is a simple thing —
A smile, a nod, or a cheery grin.
Or an "I love you" to a listening ear
Will carry right through to another New Year.

Audrey Cowan

A Reminder

The Semi-Annual Board meeting will be held on January 25 and 26 in Montreal.

Looking for something new to serve to friends and family over the festive season? **Brownsburg W. I.**

(Argenteuil Co.) have sent in a few recipes that they hope will be enjoyed not only during the holidays but the year round.

Food for the Gods

- 16 graham wafers, rolled fine
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup chopped dates
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 3 beaten eggs

Mix wafer crumbs, sugar, baking powder, and salt together. Add dates, nuts, and eggs. Mix thoroughly and quickly. Bake 25 to 30 minutes at 350 degrees F. Cool. Top with a butter icing.

Cranberry Squares

- 1 1/4 cups raw cranberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup seedless raisins
- 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 3/4 cups instant oats
- 2/3 cup melted butter

Place the cranberries and sugar in a saucepan and cover with water. Boil for a few minutes. Add the raisins and orange rind.

Combine the flour, soda, salt, brown sugar, and oats together in a bowl. Drizzle the melted butter over the oat mixture and mix.

Place half the oat mixture on the bottom of a 9 by 9 inch pan. Add the cranberry mixture. (If very juicy, leave out some of the juice.) Top with the other half of the oat mixture. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 30 minutes.

Party Bars

- 1 cup sifted all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1/4 cup soft butter
- 1/2 cup dessicated coconut
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup (6 oz.) chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1/2 cup cut walnuts
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1/4 cup butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Sift 1 cup flour and baking

powder on to waxed paper. Mix 1 cup brown sugar and butter in bowl until crumbly. Stir in flour mixture, coconut and oats.

Press firmly into a greased 9 inch square pan.

Mix eggs, chocolate chips, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar, walnuts, flour and butter in a bowl.

Pour this mixture over bottom layer.

Bake near centre of oven for 35 minutes or until cake pulls from side of pan. Cut into 24 bars.

Stanstead County School Fair

The 57th annual School Fair in Stanstead County was held on Sept. 15. In spite of bad weather there was a good attendance with 294 children entering 846 exhibits. A good number of interested parents and friends were there as well — to say nothing of an army of W.I. workers and the judges.

The fair really gets underway early in the spring when seeds are given to all school children whose parents agree to furnish a plot of ground in which to grow them. Each participant has a choice

of a collection of flower or vegetable seed with four varieties in each collection. All gardens are visited at least once by the Convener of Agriculture for the nearest W.I. branch or her helpers. Most branches offer prizes for the best gardens.

On the day of the fair the activity begins as soon as the big, yellow busses roll in bringing the excited children and their exhibits. W. I. members have gone to all schools a day or two beforehand to help the children plan their exhibits and to fill in their tickets, and on the day itself they help get

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everything in its proper place and sign up any latecomers. There are 108 classes including, apart from the produce of the school fair gardens, produce from home gardens, cooking, sewing, knitting, crocheting, wood work, various other crafts, nature collections, snapshots, stamp, and coin collections, essays, posters, and verse. There is something for everyone — even those who have no space for a garden. All classes are open to any pupil of the right age; boys frequently win prizes for cooking, and sometimes girls win in woodworking.

By 9:30 the doors were closed, and the judges, each with a W. I. member as clerk, started their work. Most of the children went to another building where a square dance competition, a talent show, and public speaking were beginning. First a square dance team in colourful costume performed, then various youngsters entertained with singing, playing various musical instruments dancing, putting on skits, performing magic tricks — all worked up on their own. Prizes were awarded in both junior and senior divisions. Then came public speaking, which was being tried for the first time. It was not too popular, but we hope for more entries next year.

Meanwhile some girls had gone off to a sewing contest for work done at the fair — buttonholes for the older girls, hemming for the younger ones.

Some children just wander around, playing and patronizing the snack booth. A short lunch break is followed by pony races with prizes and an energetic sports program with all kinds of races, jumping, etc.

Even the most exciting races could not keep the exhibitors from drifting back to the exhibition building, hoping the doors would

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be opened and they could see what they had won. At last the doors were opened, and they all crowded in. So many prizes were given that not many were entirely disappointed. Even a twelfth prize for carrots (20 cents) can encourage somebody to try again next year. The judges made their comments, and then the winners of the two trophies were announced. The trophies are silver cups, one for the highest scoring boy which is given by the Stanstead County School Board, and one for the highest scoring girl which is given by the Stanstead County W. I. The winner's name is engraved on each cup, and it is on display at his school for the next year. Each winner is also given a miniature cup to keep. After the trophies are presented, the exhibits are picked up, the busses leave, and the fair is over.

The fair was over for everybody except the school fair committee, which runs the fair as an Institute project with the cooperation of the school board and a great deal of help from all Institute members and from teachers. The County Convener of Agriculture is Chairman, a W. I. member is permanent Secretary, and the committee is made up of branch Conveners of Agriculture, representatives of the teachers, as well as Conveners of Home Economics and directors of special events such as the talent show. The County Institutes finance the fair with the help of a \$150 grant from the County Council and some smaller

grants from interested organizations and friends. The last thing the committee did before they left for home was to set a date, two or three weeks ahead, for a meeting to discuss the fair, and begin plans for the next one.

#### Dear W. I. Members

When a community need is being met, the chances are good that a Women's Institute is involved, as at Dundee where members are on call day or night to serve refreshments to volunteer firemen and where the branch conducted a survey on people's needs in the new medical and social centre coming to the area. Involved too are other branches where refreshments were served at a Blood Donor's Clinic, catering done at a ploughing match; where hospitals are helped with mending and soaps, as well as jams, jellies, and pickles, which are also given to Homes; where cemeteries are beautified and donations given; where highlights of local fairs are the W. I. exhibits; where community residents can dispose of articles (and receive a high percentage of the sale price) at a W. I. sponsored auction sale; where senior citizens get a new lease on life as they are taken on scenic drives, etc.; where the sick and shut-in find courage to "go on" as they are remembered; where children are helped and encouraged in school, 4H, and Homes. Have you ever watched a child receive a trophy

or special prize? And what a contribution to our country as we have aided students toward higher education with bursaries, loans, etc. Many children receive hot lunches, free milk, and capsules at school through the W. I.

In Cowansville a mohair throw, from the Abbie Pritchard fund, was presented to Mrs. Miner, one of our oldest W. I. members, by Mrs. Irene Williams, County President. The speaker at Cowansville was Miss R. Hawke, a teacher at St. Helen's School where 85 students (30 of them girls) attend "special training". They receive academic work in the morning and a varied program in the afternoon. Gym sessions are held every day. Sewing and other crafts are also taught. Volunteers were requested for teaching handicrafts, and many articles that are usually disposed of such as bits of wool, lace, tape, plastic bottles, paper rolls can be used at this school.

Ascot presented Mrs. Hazel Coates with a 50-year pin in recognition of her being a valued member over the years and an inspiration to all. Six others received 25-year pins.

How about taking a little out of your branch treasury and buying a black and white film so that you can take photos of some of your activities. If you get some good, sharp photos send them along for possible use in the Journal.

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Christmas gifts for the Verdun Hospital were prepared at the September meeting of **Valcartier** branch. A generous donation was given to the new local Community Centre where they plan to hold a euchre party. Donations for the upkeep of four local cemeteries were also received and treats were given to the sick and shut-ins. Cotton has been sent to the cancer society during the past months. A nurse spoke on post-operative care and complications after surgery and meetings have included quizzes on agriculture, education, home economics, and health and welfare.

**Matagami** reports that there is a welcome committee for their town and, since they started, they have welcomed over 450 families in the past few years. They expect to reach 500 soon and when they do the town plans to have a reception for the 500th family. The Women's Institute of Matagami have offered a year's membership to the town library for each member of the 500th family.

**Gaspé** County President Mrs. Sidney Patterson presented a Life Membership to Mrs. Guy Patterson of Gaspé branch, who was one of

the first members to join the Q.W.I. organized in the Gaspé in 1939. At the time Mrs. Patterson joined, it was l'Anse Aux Cousins branch, the second branch to be formed — the first being Haldimand. Mrs. Patterson is leaving for Vancouver to make her home with her children. She was sad to be leaving the Gaspé but pleased to receive this honour. Mrs. Patterson will be sorely missed as she was very active in any of the organizations to which she belonged.

Seventeen counties (nearly 70 branch reports) are before me this month. It is hard to find words to express how I feel as I get this bird's-eye view of Q.W.I. at work in one month. We have an organization to be proud of but it is the responsibility of each of us to keep it that way

In closing . . . the peace on earth we long for will come only when the peace of God is found in the hearts of men.

Mrs. Perley Clark,  
Q. W. I. Publicity Convener.

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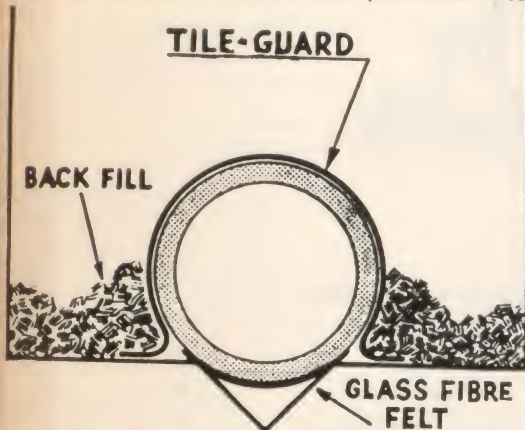
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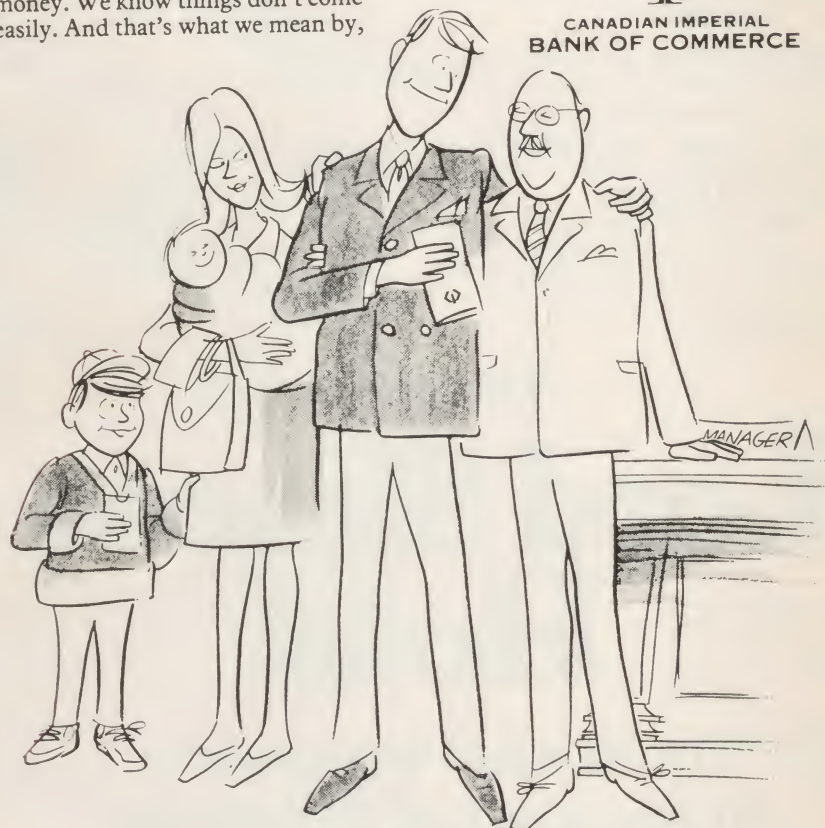
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